

CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)  
COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM, MILPITAS CITY HALL

MEETING MINUTES – REVISED 2/23/17  
JANUARY 26, 2017

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Commissioners present: Awasthi, Chang, Grilli, Manogaran, Strohfus, Tsai. Commissioner absent: Arefi. Alternate Commissioner present: Shapiro. Alternate Commissioner absent: Li.
- Council Liaison Anthony Phan: Absent  
MHS Student Liaison Dinh: Present  
MUSD Liaison: No designee.  
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present
- II. Alternates Seating of** Alternative Commissioner Shapiro was seated.
- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Chair Grilli lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Minutes** MOTION to approve the minutes of October 27, 2016.  
M / S: Manogaran / Awasthi Abstain: Strohfus, Tsai  
Ayes: Awasthi, Chang, Grilli, Manogaran
- V. Agenda** MOTION to approve the agenda of January 26, 2016.  
M / S: Tsai / Manogaran Ayes: All
- VI. Announcements:** None.
- VII. Public Forum:** None.
- VIII. New Business**
- 1. Elections**  
Staff conducted nominations for Chair. Commissioner Manogaran nominated Commissioner Grilli. There were no other nominations
- MOTION: To elect Commissioner Grilli as Chair.  
M / S: Manogaran / Awasthi Ayes: All
- Chair Grilli nominated Commissioner Chang as Vice Chair. Commissioner Tsai nominated himself.
- MOTION: To elect Commissioner Chang as Vice Chair.  
M / S: Awasthi / Manogaran Ayes: Awasthi, Chang, Grilli, Manogaran, Strohfus, Shapiro.

**2. Milpitas Chamber of Commerce International Festival & BBQ, May-21, 2017**

Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz Ainsworth and Vice President of International Development Charlene Lai presented festival themes and coordination for a culturally diverse area. Participation is at no cost to the City and includes at 10-foot x 10-foot space without a booth (pop-up shades can be used) and paperwork to participate is due in March. Participation is based on the SCC's decision of what to present. It was noted that the new Karuta card game would be a good attraction. Ms. Ainsworth emphasized the main requirement is that the SCC staff it's presentation from 10AM to 6PM both days. Staff noted that she can assist with set-up and take-down and would appreciate coverage for those activities as well. Discussion followed regarding presentation and availability to cover the hours needed; it was confirmed that students may obtain community hours for this event. Chair Grilli asked staff to poll commissioners regarding their availability to participate for discussion at the next meeting.

**3. Lead Commissioners for Established Sister Cities**

Commissioner Chang will lead the relationship with Huizhou; Commissioner Tsai, Dagupan, and; Commissioner Arefi, Tsukuba. It was further noted that Commissioner Awasthi will lead research for a possible sister city relationship in India and Chair Grilli will lead research for a possible sister city relationship in a city in Latin America.

**IX. Old Business**

**4. Develop Relationship with new Milpitas High School (MHS) Leadership Team**

Staff reported on a 1/12/17 productive and pleasant meeting with Principal Phil Morales. MHS will support sister city relationships by hosting up to 20 students per year during "Spirit Week" which is the first or second week in October. MHS hosting includes student shadowing, lunch for each student, a gathering room for visiting students, and tickets to the Homecoming Game on Friday and the Homecoming Dance on Saturday. In addition, Principal Morales agreed to assign an Assistant Principal to liaison with the SCC and assist with obtaining homestays. It was noted that Digital Business Academy (DBA) Teacher Andrea Hutchinson coordinates with SCC staff to conduct ePal connectivity between students. Staff emphasized the SCC's gratitude for this activity and stated that it is intended to also support recruiting for homestays. Principal Morales agreed to support this endeavor. He was also willing to explore the possibility of establishing a sister school relationship with a school of similar size (approximately 3,000 students) in Huizhou Municipality. Staff will email Principal Morales asking for the assignment of the assistant principal.

**5. Discuss Interest in Sister City Relationship with Bhopal, India**

Commissioner Awasthi stated that he is unable to find strong community support for this city. In addition, there was no response from Bhopal's government stating support for the relationship. In the meantime, the City received an application for sister city relationship from Hyderabad, India. Commissioner Awasthi noted that his initial research shows positive community reaction to support this city's inquiry.

**6. Possible Sister City Relationship with a Latin American City**

No discussion occurred and this item was carried to the next meeting.

**7. Current Ideas in Motion to Promote the Sister Cities Program**

This item was discussed under item 4.

**8. City Plaza Signs**

Staff reviewed that the SCC decided, by consensus at the September 22, 2016 meeting, to recommend sign placement in the landscaped area between the city hall doors and Veterans Plaza.

**9. e-Pal Project with Sister Cities**

Email communications began between DBA students and assigned sister city students the week of Nov. 7 and are ongoing. Communications with Tsukuba-matched students began in early October and are expected to end formally in mid to late March.

**10. Tsukuba City, Japan**

Staff reviewed the “Karuta in Milpitas!” events conducted on Nov. 4 and 5 and coordination with DBA. The card decks will be printed and distributed within the next two weeks.

**11. Dagupan City, Philippines**

No updates.

**12. Huizhou Municipality, China**

Huizhou representatives remain interested in furthering the discussion of a sister school relationship between two high schools.

**X. Student Liaison Report** – Liaison Dinh offered ideas to create interest in homestays at MHS

**XI. City Council Liaison Report** – None

**XII. School District Liaison Report** – None

**XIII. Future Agenda Items**

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
  - i. Tsukuba, Japan
  - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
  - iii. Huizhou, China
2. Hyderabad, India

**XII. Adjournment**

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. until the next regularly meeting. To be determined in December based on survey of commissioner availability.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of January 26, 2017 to the next regular meeting of February 23, 2017.

M / S: Tsai / Manogaran

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe, Staff Liaison